United Nations S/2001/685

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 July 2001
English
Original: French

Letter dated 11 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to invite the Security Council again to address the issue of the demilitarization of Kisangani and, specifically, the latest developments in that regard.

On 19 July 2001, Rwanda, through the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie (RCD-Goma), stated that it was strengthening its presence in Kisangani, in flagrant violation of the relevant provisions of Council resolution 1355 (2001) of 15 June 2001, particularly section A, paragraph 5, in which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, demanded "that the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie demilitarize Kisangani in accordance with resolution 1304 (2000), and that all parties respect the demilitarization of the city and its environs".

My Government would also like to recall the statement made to the press on 6 July 2001 by the President of the Council, who stressed that the RCD-Goma "has failed to disengage Kisangani and has obstructed the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) operations".

Moreover, the forces of aggression occupying the martyred city of Kisangani are continuing to carry out acts of harassment against MONUC representatives in violation of the status-of-forces agreement signed between the United Nations and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

My Government regards this reckless attitude on the part of Rwanda and RCD-Goma as the expression of their deliberate wish to resume hostilities in order to perpetuate the occupation of the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which enables them to continue the illegal exploitation of the natural resources and other wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to engage, in violation of its national sovereignty, in other kinds of illicit trafficking which sustain their war effort as cheaply as possible.

The refusal to demilitarize the city of Kisangani is a decision with grave consequences and a new challenge to the Security Council.

My Government would like to warn the international community and the Council of the risks of inaction by the Council, which would be likely to perpetuate the state of war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and even lead to an escalation of the conflict, thus prolonging the suffering of the Congolese people.

01-45238 (E) 120701 120701

Inaction by the Council would also have the negative effect of strengthening the feeling of impunity among the aggressor countries, which would be convinced of the powerlessness of the principal organ of the United Nations responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security. There is a real danger that the aggressor countries will undermine the credibility of the Security Council, which would have a devastating impact on the current peace process.

In the light of the foregoing, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo requests the Security Council to assume its responsibilities fully and to:

1. Immediately take the steps required for the demilitarization of Kisangani, in accordance with Council resolution 1304 (2000) of 15 June 2000 and all subsequent resolutions on this serious matter;

2. Demand that Rwanda and RCD-Goma demilitarize Kisangani and its environs in accordance with Council resolutions 1304 (2000) of 16 June 2000 and 1355 (2001) of 15 June 2001;

3. Strictly apply the measures provided for in Articles 39 to 42 of the Charter of the United Nations and in section A, paragraph 28, of Council resolution 1355 (2001) against Rwanda and RCD-Goma if they persist in their refusal to demilitarize Kisangani within a time limit to be set for them by the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative